

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Voluntary)
Surrender of the Educator)
Certificate of Louis J. Martin)
Certificate 237678)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 8, 2016. On September 30, 2016, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice to Louis J. Martin, via regular mail and certified mail, restricted delivery, regarding possible disciplinary action to be taken against his educator certificate, 237678. Mr. Martin received the notice. On October 10, 2016, he informed the SCDE that he has retired from teachings and that he desired to waive his right to a hearing and enter into a Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender of his educator certificate 237678, effective November 8, 2016. Considering the evidence provided, the State Board has agreed to accept the Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender for Louis J. Martin, effective November 8, 2016.

Louis J.
Martin
237678

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FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Martin holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has over forty-four years of teaching experience. He has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Martin had been employed by the Charleston County School District (District) since 2008 as an associate superintendent. The District placed Mr. Martin on administrative leave on January 19, 2016, pending an investigation into allegations concerning the misadministration of District funds. Mr. Martin chose to take an annual leave beginning February 5, 2016, and retired from the District on March 2, 2016.

An investigation revealed that Mr. Martin was responsible for an employee in the District incorrectly receiving a \$7,500 National Board Certification salary supplement (salary supplement). In the review of staffing allocations for 2014-2015, the District determined that Mr. Martin had reported that the employee was working as a testing coordinator, a qualifying position for the salary supplement, and the employee subsequently received the salary supplement. However, the District learned that the employee was actually working as a data analyst, a non-qualifying position for the salary supplement. Mr. Martin accepts responsibility for his error in not reviewing all National Board requirements and for the misadministration of District funds. He has informed SCDE that he did not intend to engage in fraudulent activity.

On October 10, 2016, Mr. Martin notified the SCDE that he had received the notice concerning possible disciplinary action against his educator certificate, and that he desired to waive his right to a hearing and enter into a Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender of his educator certificate 237678, effective November 8, 2016.

Mr. Martin agrees to the surrender of his South Carolina educator certificate 237678 subject to the following conditions: (1) his educator certificate will become invalid immediately upon the approval by the State Board of the Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender; (2) he has waived his right to notice and a hearing and understands that the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; and (3) he understands that the surrender of his educator certificate will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse as a voluntary surrender.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). Just cause includes "unprofessional conduct." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 2 S.C. Code Regs 43-58 (2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Mr. Martin engaged in unprofessional conduct as a result of his misadministration of District funds. The evidence presented

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supports the State Board's decision to accept the Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender of educator certificate 237678, issued under the name of Louis J. Martin, effective November 8, 2016.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the educator certificate of Louis J. Martin, certificate 237678, is hereby declared invalid. The voluntary surrender of the educator certificate of Louis J. Martin, certificate 237678 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:


Michael R. Brennan, Chair

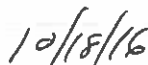
Columbia, South Carolina
November 8, 2016

I, Louis J. Martin, S.C. Educator Certificate 237678, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of education certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand that the terms set forth in this Consent Agreement of Voluntary Surrender are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; and I hereby freely, knowingly and voluntarily surrender my educator certificate to the South Carolina State Board of Education. I hereby acknowledge that this voluntary surrender shall have the same effect as a revocation of my certificate. I knowingly forfeit and relinquish all right, title and privilege of holding myself out as and being able to practice as an educator in the public schools in the State of South Carolina. I agree that I will not serve as a volunteer or be employed as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher, band teacher, coach, or in any other position in a public school in the State of South Carolina. I agree to the proposed Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender, consisting of

three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education on November 8, 2016.



Louis J. Martin



Date

